regard in order to ensure that all the guidelines are being strictly followed by every one;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The Ethical Guidelines for Bio-Medical Research on Human Subjects framed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under the Chairmanship of Justice M.N.V. Venkatachaliah were circulated among Bio-Medical Research Institutions in the country for being followed in letter and spirit. Government also proposes to bring in a legislation to ensure that these guidelines are legally enforceable.

Functioning of Electropathy Institutions

2702. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the High Court of Delhi in its judgement on 18th November, 1998 in case No. 4015/96 has directed the Central/ State Governments to formulate the functioning of Electropathy Institutions on the lines of Sections 17,18,19 and 19 (A) of Medical Council Act, 1956 in order to streamline functioning of the system;

(b) if so, the action Government have taken in the matter;

(c) whether any instructions have also been issued to State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in its order dated 18.11.98 in the case No. 4015/96 has directed the Central and State Governments to consider making legislation prescribing grant of licences to the institutes conducting courses in Electropathy and other alternative systems of medicine, minimum standard of education on functioning of such institutes on the lines set out in Sec. 17, 18, 19 & 19A of Medical Council Act, 1956 minimum qualification for getting admission in such institutes, conditions entitling these institutes to issue diploma and certificates etc. In pursuance of the said order and also to examine

the claims of various systems of Alternative Medicines including electropathy, a Standing Committee of Experts has been set up under the Chairmanship of DG, ICMR. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government which is under the process of examination.

Reimbursement of expenses for treatment in private hospitals

2703. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether full reimbursement of expenses incurred for treatment in private hospitals is not made to Government pensioners though prior permission is obtained from CGHS;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures proposed to simplify the procedure to help senior citizens who are CGHS beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) CGHS beneficiaries (both serving and pensioners) have the option of availing general/specialized treatment and diagnostic procedures at private hospitals/diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS Delhi after obtaining the recommendation regarding line of treatment from the specialist of CGHS/Government hospitals/CMO In-charge of the dispensary and prior permission from the concerned office/Department in the case of serving employees and from the CMO In-charge of CGHS dispensaries in the case of pensioner beneficiaries.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been entered into by Director, CGHS with each of the private hospitals recognised under CGHS Delhi *vide* Dept. of Health's O.M. dated 7.9.2001 which binds the hospitals not to charge CGHS beneficiaries (both serving and pensioners) over and above the ceiling rates for various medical procedures/tests/investigations fixed by the Government in the said O.M. Further, in the case of emergency conditions mentioned in the MOA, the private hospitals recognised under CGHS shall not refuse admission or demand advance from the CGHS beneficiaries and shall provide credit facilities to the patient on production of a valid CGHS Token Card.

Similar MOA would be entered into by the CGHS with all the private hospitals as and when they get recognised under CGHS in various CGHS covered cities all over India.